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Yvonne Farley

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Oct. 1989



West

SPECIAL
COLLECTIONS

Virginia
Libraries

October 1989

West Virginia Libraries

Vol. 42 No. 5

LIBRARY CARDS — FAMILY STYLE

*A Family that Reads Together Feeds Together
A Family that Feeds Together Reads Together*



The most intensive campaign ever conducted by the Library Commission offers an opportunity to get library cards into the hands of every family member in our state. "Library Cards — Family Style" is attempting to place informational placemats in practically every eating establishment in West Virginia. The program will attempt to turn restaurant users into library users.

The two largest food service distributors in the state, Standard Food and Sexton, distributed 2 million of these placemats to restaurants they service. The campaign which began October 15th will climax on Nov. 15th, the date of Read Out 4 (the Great West Virginia Read Out).

Gifts & Exchange will be sending each library a share of 18,000 books which will be available for giving away at participating restaurants. The Library Commission is providing over 1.25 million stickers and buttons for the Read Out — Family Style. Those with questions should contact Donna Calvert, Shirley Smith or Fred Glazer at WVLC.

WVLA Conference to Highlight Intellectual Freedom

JUDY KRUG TO SPEAK

Judy Krug, director of ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom since 1967, will speak at WVLA's first general session at Canaan Valley at 2 p.m. Thursday, October 26th.

Ms. Krug has also been executive director of the Freedom to Read Foundation since 1969. She received her B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh where she studied political theory. In 1964, she earned her M.A. at the Graduate Library School at the University of Chicago and has held positions at various Chicago libraries — including reference librarian at the John Crerar Library and head cataloger at the Northwestern University Dental School Library. Before taking over her present duties at the Office for Intellectual Freedom, Ms. Krug was a research analyst for the American Library Association.

In addition to her professional responsibilities, she is an active member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Beta Kappa Associates, and Beta Phi Mu. In 1975, she was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Division of the American Civil Liberties Union. She is a member of the American Bar Association's Commission on Public Understanding About the Law.

(continued on page 3)

EDITOR'S WORDS

As usual I am rushing around at the last minute to get West Virginia Libraries to the printer in time for you to receive it before the Canaan Valley Conference. I am grateful to those who contribute information and articles for this publication. This time Chuck Julian kept our FAX machine busy with information. His assistant up there in the Northern Panhandle, Marilyn Horachek, did a terrific job soliciting ads for this issue. She has worked hard preparing an advertising flyer and in talking with advertisers. And Donna Calvert at the WVLC has been coming through for me with news about programs around the state.

Otherwise, most libraries are not doing a good job at sending me news. Surely there are exciting things happening. I usually hear about these programs and events at meetings and say, "Why didn't you send that in to me?" I could call everyone up but that is impossible. If you don't have news, at least let me know when there are new employees at your library or when old ones leave. I believe that one of the best parts of WVLA is the personal contacts and friendships which are made. People want to know about other people.

I am always amazed to hear what's happening around the state — especially about Fred Glazer's current WVLC campaign to convert restaurant users into library users. The idea of going in to eat at my local restaurant and staring at a library placemat had me marveling at our state librarian's genius at promotion. We are bracing ourselves in the public libraries for **"A Family that Reads Together Feeds Together"**.

Yvonne S. Farley
Editor



PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

The time has passed quickly since last we met at the WVLA Annual Conference. Now it's time to **"Get Back to the Basics — Read, Rest, Relax"** at Canaan Valley Resort.

I would urge you to get to know the Executive Board members of WVLA who will be wearing large print name tags during the conference. I would also hope that you will make a special effort to attend the Saturday section meetings of WVLA. It is there that you can begin to get involved in the workings of this organization.

Don't forget to bring some spare change for the WVLA Marketing Committee products which will be on sale at the conference. This year they've developed a new coffee mug.

This fall there will be two authors visiting WVLA, Meredith Willis and Cynthia Rylant, both of them are West Virginia writers. Judy Krug from ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom will be at Canaan to speak at Thursday's first general session and a special guest, psychotherapist Ron Havern of New York will speak at the Friday luncheon. In addition there will be workshops dealing with advanced technology, fund raising, personnel issues and children's interests. I hope to see you there. God Bless You.

Rebecca D'Annunzio
President of WVLA

READING ALOUD FILM AVAILABLE

The West Virginia Library Commission has acquired the 80 minute, color 16 mm film *"Reading Aloud"* with Jim Trelease. This film normally rents for \$135 for 3 showings. Thanks to Donna Calvert, head of the Direct Services Division of the Commission, this film is now being distributed free in West Virginia to anyone with a valid library card — to be used anywhere in classrooms, churches etc.

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Judy Krug to Speak at WVLA Conference

(continued from page 1)

Awards and honors received by Ms. Krug include the Irita Van Doren Award presented in 1976 by the American Booksellers Association for her many contributions to the cause of the book as an instrument of culture in American life; the Harry Kalven Freedom of Expression Award, presented by the American Civil Liberties Union to the Office of Intellectual Freedom of the American Library Association on December 6, 1976; the 1978 Robert B. Downs Award for her outstanding contribution to the cause of intellectual freedom in libraries; the 1983 Carl Sandburg "Freedom to Read" Award, presented by the Friends of the Chicago Public Library; the Open Book Award, presented by the American Society of Journalists and Authors in 1984; and the 1985 President's Award, presented by the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union.

Ms. Krug is a noted speaker and author in the area of intellectual freedom. Her articles on this subject have appeared in national library and education journals.

WV MICRO COMPUTER EDUCATIONAL NETWORK

Looking for a job? Have a computer and modem and a phone line? Use your telecommunications capability to dial 1-800-642-1982 to access the West Virginia Micro-computer Educational Network (WVMEN) where you will be able to find a variety of job postings. If you are interested in posting a job vacancy on this network, contact Brenda Williams, State Computer Network Coordinator, at the WV Department of Education, 304-348-7880.

Meredith Sue Willis to Speak at WVLA Conference

The author Meredith Sue Willis will be at the WVLA Conference at Canaan Valley to speak to librarians and library supporters.

Ms. Willis was born in Clarksburg and grew up in Shinnston. Her father, Glenn Willis, retired as the last principal of Victory High School in Clarksburg. Her mother, Lucille Meredith Willis, grew up in Cook's Mine, West Virginia, and is a former teacher.

She published her first novel, *A SPACE APART*, in 1979. This was the story of a West Virginia preacher and his family, and won the 1980 West Virginia Library Association's Literary Merit Award. It was followed by *HIGHER GROUND* (Scribner's, 1981), and *ONLY GREAT CHANGES* (Scribners, 1985). A book about writing, *PERSONAL FICTION WRITING*, was published by Teacher's and Writers Press in 1984. She has published over thirty short stories and has been awarded nine grants and prizes, including a fellowship in Creative Writing from the National Endowment for the Arts and, for 1990, a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Her novels have been praised in *The San Francisco Chronicle* ("fresh and engaging with her wise perceptions and unusual language"), in *New York Newsday* ("Take a half dozen of the novelists who routinely show up as repeaters on the best-seller lists, ask them to put their united talents into one collaboration, and the chances are they couldn't write a page which Meredith Sue Willis couldn't do better."), and in many other publications.

She continues to write novels, short stories, articles and books on education, and book reviews for publications like *The New York Times Book Review* and *The Washington Post Book World*. She gives writing workshops for teachers and students at various schools and colleges in the New York-New Jersey area, including a course she created at New York University called "Beginning Your Novel."

In 1982 she married Andrew B. Weinberger, a physician who is the Chief of Rheumatology at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Elizabeth, New Jersey. They live in South Orange, New Jersey, with their son Joel who is four years old.



Libraries Invited to Bring Posters

At the upcoming WVLA Conference in Canaan Valley there will be an opportunity to share a number of ideas and experiences from West Virginia Libraries. Tom Brown, chairman of the conference committee, has asked all the libraries in the state to participate.

On the walls of meeting rooms, the conference committee plans to have posters of libraries, their activities, their personnel, and their facilities. Brown terms it "A sort of visual shouting of what is good about our libraries".

All libraries are asked to bring a poster to the conference for display. At Canaan Valley it should be given to Beth Nicolson, who will see to its mounting. The poster from each library should not be larger than 2 feet by 3 feet and the pictures should relate to the library and its programs, said Brown. "This is not a competition but there will be posters from small, medium, and large public, school, special and college libraries.

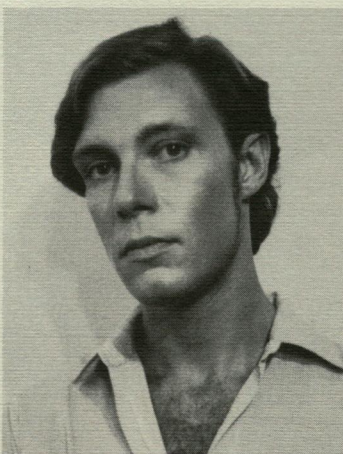
Havern to Speak at Luncheon

Friday's WVLA luncheon speaker at the annual conference will be Ron Havern who will give an address entitled "Information, Collaboration and the Creative Process."

Havern, M. Div., is a Ph.D. candidate at Union Theological Seminary in the field of psychiatry and religion. He holds the professional degree from the Divinity School of Harvard University and degrees in Philosophy and Anthropology from West Virginia University. He has published articles on religion and the arts and has served as theology editor for various publishers while teaching religion at Mercy College for the past eight years. He currently holds appointments as a lecturer both in philosophy at New York University and in theology at Marymount Manhattan College. A trained art therapist, he works as a psychotherapist in private practice in New York City.

His special areas of research are thanatology, mystical theology and psychic phenomena. He has also published, in collaboration with Dr. Robert Ingria, numerous translations of modern Greek literature into English. He is currently translating a full length drama, "Christo," by Nikes Kazantzakis. He is a contributing editor to "Argo, the Magazine of Greek Heritage History and Culture." He is Managing Editor of Back Fork Books, Inc. of Webster Springs, W.Va., and worked for several years as a theology editor for the Seabury Press, Inc. in New York City. He also edited the poetry journal of Harvard Divinity School, "Of Alphas."

Mr. Havern's first play, "Broken Bohemian Hearts in Alphabet City," a psycho-sexual study of child abuse, was produced Off Off Broadway at New York City's Theater for the New City in April and May of 1989 and will be produced in Berlin in December of this year. His second play "Love of the Operetta" is scheduled for production in New York in the spring of 1990, and he is currently writing a third play, "Lost in the Start," about West Virginia's own Grey Barker. His first volume of poems, *Stone Poems*, will be published by Back Fork Books this spring, 1990.



PEOPLE

Dr. Joseph Barnes has joined Shepherd College as its new college librarian, the unit director for the Ruth Scarborough Library.

Previously an assistant librarian at the University of Buffalo, Dr. Barnes has a Ph.D. in History and a Masters in Library Science, both from the University of Buffalo. He did his undergraduate work at the University of Rochester in New York.

Dr. Barnes has published over twenty authored pieces including "A Natural Education, Young Henry Ward," in *Focus* (1986), "Rochester" in the *Encyclopedia Americana* (1985), "How to Raise a Family on \$500 a Year," in *American Heritage* (1981), and the forthcoming "Sailing on the Mayflower," and "Resignation of Spiro T. Agnew" in the *Pierian* book of Days (1989).

Josephine Fidler has been appointed permanent director of the James Morrow Library at Marshall University.

Sue Forrest has left the College of Graduate Studies and accepted a position at Louisiana State University as Director of a campus library located in Eunice.

A Penn Hills, Pa., man has been named as the new director of the Ohio County Public Library. Harve Allen Tannenbaum has a Bachelor of Library Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He has served in a variety of positions in public and corporate libraries in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Tannenbaum is a Pittsburgh native.

Jackie I. Schmitt, formerly of Clarion, Pennsylvania, has become Head of the Reference Department at the Parkersburg and Wood County Public Library in Parkersburg.

Ms. Schmitt received a Master of Science in Library Science from Clarion University of Pennsylvania in August of this year. Prior to her employment in West Virginia, she was head of circulation at the Clarion Free Library. Ms. Schmitt is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Schmitt of Altoona, Pa.



THE DEAD

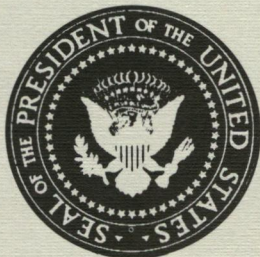
USA. 1987. 82 minutes. Color
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—BOOKLIST



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FOR YOUR LIBRARY

By Yvonne Farley

A LITTLE EXCITEMENT

By Marc Harshman, Cobblehill Books, 1989.

Cobblehill Books, an affiliate of Dutton Children's Books, has announced the publication of *A LITTLE EXCITEMENT* by Marc Harshman, illustrated by Ted Rand.

Harshman was born and raised in Randolph County, Indiana and has lived for many years now in Marshall County West Virginia. A storyteller, poet and teacher, this is his first children's book. He received degrees from Bethany College, Yale University, and the University of Pittsburgh. Now a sixth-grade teacher at Center McMechen School in McMechen, he and his wife, Cheryl, a children's librarian in Moundsville, have done many storytelling performances throughout the state. In addition to his children's book, Harshman is the author of a book of poetry, *TURNING OUT THE STONES* (State Street Press).

A LITTLE EXCITEMENT is the story of a young boy who is bored with country life in winter. He wishes for excitement, but when it comes he realizes that excitement doesn't always come in good packages. Willis acquires a deeper understanding of both family relationships and the possibilities of dangers in the world.

MEMORIES OF A MODEL MINING COMMUNITY

By Joe Tagliente

Joe Tagliente has just finished 20 years of research on a book entitled *MEMORIES OF A MODEL MINING COMMUNITY*, an account of a coal mining town located in the heart of southern Appalachia. The documentary traces the beginnings of a coal town in the early 1900s which was considered to be a model community, the aftermath of the closing of the mines, and the present day community.

The town he writes about is Nellis which blossomed in the 1930s after the Armco Coal Company opened a mine there but Tagliente says that Nellis could be any coal town. He made use of personal interviews, company records and more than 165 pictures in compiling the book.

Tagliente is principal at Madison Middle School. He and his wife attended school in the Nellis area and he taught school there for six years and was familiar with the lives of coal miners. His grandfather died in a mining accident and his father worked in the mines for 49 years and 6 months.

For more information on how to purchase the book write to Joe Tagliente, Box 376, Ashford, WV 25009. The cost is \$20.

CAUGHT UP IN TIME by John Hennen, Aegina Press.

This book was sent to me to review and I did read it. I have not had time to write a review of it but I do want to mention it to librarians in the state who may not have heard of it.

In this book West Virginia historian John Hennen examines the conflicts endured by Appalachians who fought America's war in Vietnam. Using words of West Virginia Vietnam veterans and already established research on post traumatic stress disorder, he writes about people who have largely been excluded from the American Dream in peacetime, and have suffered disproportionately for their country in wartime. Nothing new here either in the discussion of Appalachia or of Vietnam. In fact, all the negative assumptions about Appalachian character by middle class social scientists are included. The input from vets is what makes this worth browsing.

The publisher is Aegina Press, Inc., 59 Oak Lane, Spring Valley, Huntington, WV 25701.

THIS NEST OF VIPERS; MCCARTHYISM AND HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE MUNDEL AFFAIR, 1951-52 By Charles H. McCormick, University of Illinois Press, 1989.

This is not only a book about the McCarthy era, but also one of West Virginia. The information it provides about the political and social infrastructure of a small West Virginia community — Fairmont — is valuable in understanding our state.

The book tells the story of Dr. Luella Mundel's struggle in 1951 and 1952 to keep her job as head of the art department at Fairmont State College. As the author says, "It is about the few who tried to help her, the few who hounded her and the many who ignored her. It has melodrama, interesting characters, and sensational revelations."

One of the revelations which came through for me was the role of local business and professional groups in maintaining a narrow educational view which indirectly served the purpose of the absentee corporate rulers. The effect was then that educational opportunities were limited for people. Dr. Mundel collided with this local elite as much as she did with the witch-hunting spirit of the times.

Actually Dr. Mundel appears to have been more of an eccentric than anything else. It's an interesting sidelight to know that Harold D. Jones, the Fairmont College librarian at that time, was one of her supporters and that his collection of letters, clippings etc. helped the author reconstruct the events.

Order from the University of Illinois Press.

FOR YOUR LIBRARY

(continued from page 6)

THE SOW'S EAR, poetry quarterly

This is an Appalachian poetry quarterly produced in Bristol, Tennessee. The editor, Errol Hess, is a native West Virginian and there are submissions from West Virginia poets such as P. J. Laska of Morgantown. Subscriptions are \$8 per year from The Sow's Ear, 245 McDowell St., Bristol, TN 37620.

IT AIN'T MUCH, BUT IT'S ALL I GOT by Beth Spence, 1988.

This spiral bound report presents the results of a study of rural homelessness in West Virginia sponsored by Covenant House in Charleston through grants. As Beth Spence, the investigator and former *CHARLESTON GAZETTE* reporter, says in the introduction it was not a statistical study but rather a series of 100 interviews with individuals in Lincoln, Logan and Clay counties — most of them poor people. What she observed and then wrote about is the overwhelming problem of substandard living conditions in our state.

The report has many specific stories of how people in these rural counties live without adequate water, heat, or safe electrical connections. It presents a dismal picture of rural life where just having a roof over your head doesn't mean that you have a home. Probably the greatest tragedy of this kind of poverty is the effect it has on children's health and education. Spence also points out that existing programs do little to remedy this problem.

Copies of this report should be in every state library. It should be read by students who will be doing school reports on homelessness. Instead of looking up articles in *TIME* and *NEWSWEEK* about the urban homeless, they should be reading about the conditions right here in our own state. This book provides detailed portraits of how people are actually living and should be an eye opener to those who have never been out in the hills and hollows to see the unsanitary and unhealthy structures where large numbers of West Virginians live.

This report is available (\$10.00 each) from Covenant House, 1109 Quarrier Street, Charleston, WV 25301.

THE CHRONICLES OF LINCOLN COUNTY by Pat Love, 1989.

This fictionalized tale was written by Pat Love who is a printer by profession, but a poet and writer by avocation. He's vice-president of West Virginia Writers and lives in Charleston.

The introduction says that the main character of this seven part story is a take-off on frontiersman Simon Kenton.

Copies of *CHRONICLES OF LINCOLN COUNTY* may be purchased by mailing \$3.95 plus \$2.00 mailing and handling charges to 1617 McClung St., Charleston, WV 25311.

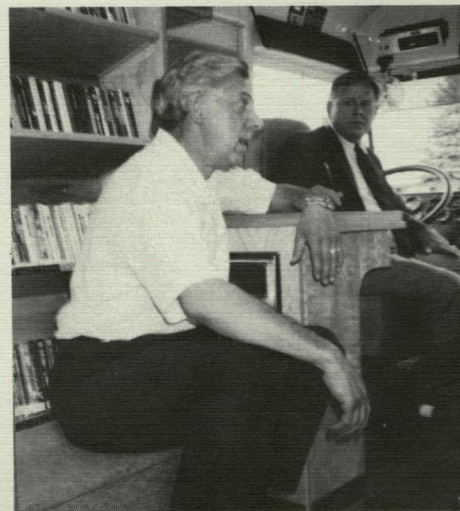
If you have something by a West Virginian or about West Virginia to be reviewed, please send it to Yvonne Farley, RCPL, Box 1876, Beckley, WV 25801. If you would like to review a book, movie, magazine, journal or video please let me know.

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IN THE WVLA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AREA

Bookmobiles Check in at Raleigh County



Julian Grubb (left), bookmobile driver at Raleigh County for 20 years, talks about the county's new bookmobiles with assistant director of the Kanawha County Public Library, Dr. Fred Ranson (right) who was on hand for a September Bookmobile celebration in Beckley.

Librarians, trustees, and friends gathered in the Raleigh County Library in late September to celebrate the library's purchase of two new 31-foot long bookmobiles valued at \$75,000 each.

Only one bookmobile had arrived for the September reception, but both are now on the road to area schools and other locations. The \$150,000 project was financed through book sales, donations, a Beckley Area foundation grant, an estate bequest and other fundraising efforts.

Head librarian Susan Vidovich said, "The old vehicles were 20 years old and it was coming to a point where it was no longer safe or cost-effective to operate them."

The new bookmobiles each hold between 3,000 and 3,200 books. Painted in subtle tones of gold and blue, the bookmobiles are fully carpeted and have 78 inches of headroom. Custom designed for the library by Thomas Built Buses Inc. of High Point, N.C., the traveling libraries are equipped with generators to provide heat and light. For drivers special features like the automatic transmission and diesel engines will make a big difference.

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1989 SUMMER READING PROGRAM Dinosaur Tracts

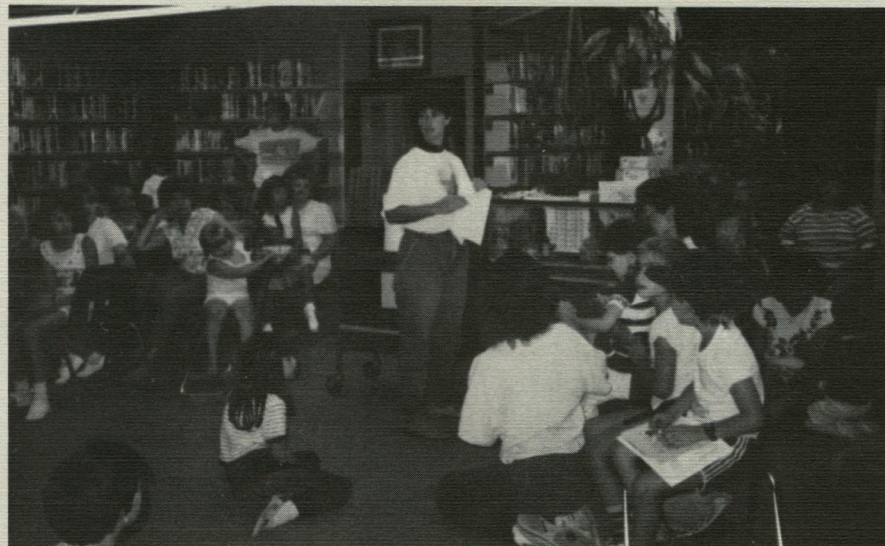
By Donna Calvert, WVLC

Young readers in 51 counties followed the Dinosaur tracts to their local public library. This year the IGY chose dinosaurs as a theme for the summer reading program. David Martin, West Virginia Library Commission, designed an impressive tyrannosaur in a marsh with an iron on T-shirt transfer. Five hundred thirty one sets of materials were distributed which means a possible 13,275 young patrons participated.

Librarians reported tremendous success with this program. Chapmanville Public Library had participants follow footprints on the floor to a nest of dinosaur eggs which held a variety of surprises. Each child earned an opportunity to select an egg after reading 5 books. Each library took the basic theme and resourcefully compiled a dynamic summer program tailored to their community.



Shown holding eggs at the end of the dinosaur tracks are (left) Chapmanville librarian Judy Browning with assistant librarian (right) Pat Abbott.



The Chapmanville Public Library's Summer Reading program used a "dinosaurific" program which attracted 150 participants. As incentives, dinosaur eggs were filled with different prizes. When children read 5 books, they followed dinosaur tracks to the eggs. Prizes included candy, certificates from restaurants and other "goodies". Here, librarian Judy Browning presents certificates to summer reading program participants at the awards ceremony.

Raleigh County Summer Readers



Raleigh County's Summer Reading Program celebration was held at the Raleigh Mall in Beckley. Volunteers are shown serving refreshments to over 500 children who participated.

Participation in the summer reading program sponsored by the Raleigh County Library exceeded that of any previous year, according to children's librarian and program director Judy Wallen.

During summer vacation, 558 children read a total of 35,773 books from the main library and outlying branch facilities. Wallen attributed this year's success to the "energy and dedication of the county library staff members who worked with the children and encouraged them to keep reading throughout the summer."

Wallen expressed special thanks to Ames manager Doug Jeffrey who donated six bicycles as incentives for the reading program and provided refreshments for a special party to honor all the youths who participated. For every ten books a child read, he or she was given an entry form for a drawing held at a party. Response to the program was so great organizers had to move the celebration party from the main library to Raleigh Mall.



One of the winners of a bicycle donated by Ames Department Store is shown wheeling it away. A drawing was held for six bicycles — one for each elementary school grade.

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INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AS AN ABSOLUTE:

Thoughts on Social Advocacy, Neutrality and Librarians

By Yvonne Farley

The principle of intellectual freedom is a mainstay of the American library profession. In 1939 ALA passed the Library Bill of Rights which in essence maintained that people may have access to materials no matter what the point of view expressed; that libraries would have "balanced" collections; that the political views of the author would not be a factor in selecting materials; that anyone has access to these materials and that libraries can make meeting rooms available to groups no matter what their beliefs as long as the meeting is open to the public. The Library Bill of Rights also says that librarians will back free expression of ideas on a more general level by opposing any attempts to limit this First Amendment right.

ALA has established an Office of Intellectual Freedom and most state associations usually have such committees. In West Virginia this committee has recently become active after many years of obscurity. This year at the annual conference the committee sponsored the visit of Judy Krug who has long been active on intellectual freedom issues.

Traditionally, librarians have stood by this principle of intellectual freedom. A recent survey of librarians revealed that in general they endorse this principle. They believe themselves to be neutral arbiters of information. In a democratic society, they are the guardians of the principle of intellectual freedom. They are the backbone of the pluralist model of our American state and contribute to the dominant ideology that this is indeed a free country where one can say what he or she wants and read or see what he or she wants. Over the years librarians have done a remarkable job in backing this free expression of ideas.

Since the creation of public libraries there has traditionally been a commitment by the profession to its public. In public libraries especially, there was an original mission of "uplifting the masses." Librarians to one degree or another, have had some concept of the public good — seeing libraries as institutions which contribute to the overall amelioration of society. Its the reason we've developed children's programs, information and referral, adult education etc.

There is also, if you take the Library Bill of Rights seriously, an obligation to seek out various unrepresented points of view to include in the library. There is probably less agreement regarding just how far librarians should go to help these groups. This position of social advocacy has changed over the years with the pendulum in the 1930s and the 1960s swinging to active involvement in advocacy. In the 1930s there was a blossoming of adult education programs and in the 1960s there was an emphasis on reaching out to the poor and minorities.

It seems that librarians do endorse the principle of intellectual freedom in general but begin to have qualms when it comes to, for example, providing information on sex or reproduction to children. Then they begin to think about other factors from the external environment — parents, religious groups, funding sources etc. (In Raleigh County the bookmobile librarians remember "whiting out" the penises illustrated in the children's book *IN THE NIGHT KITCHEN* by Maurice Sendak by painting on diapers.) And that is the nature of the implication of this commitment to intellectual freedom. It's not black and white to most of us. And we can often find ourselves in conflict with our need

to promote the public good or to support social advocacy. On the one hand our commitment to intellectual freedom is absolute but it can contradict our social mission.

There's the big conflict we find ourselves in over pornography. Certain feminists and religious groups advocate censorship of pornography because they say it promotes violence towards women. (Most librarians are women.) Here we are caught in a conflict between the out and out demand for censorship by these groups and the idea that certain materials might actually be harmful to the public. So far, the profession's commitment to intellectual freedom has placed us on the side of the pornographers in fighting these ordinances.

Another case, in 1983, also highlights the kind of mess we get into over these principles — that's the one in California where CLA allowed, then disallowed, an obnoxious anti-semitic group to set up a booth at their conference. The group maintained that the holocaust was "overrated" and other such falsehoods. The library world became drawn again into a debate over whether such obviously untruthful and hate-filled information should be disseminated. Some said that there's no obligation to allow such unreliable and socially negative views to be propagated. Aren't we in some sense responsible for the nature of debate? Would this behavior actually increase anti-semitism and hatred of Jews?

This idea of course stems from the "paper bullet" theory: If ideas can be fired at people and affect behavior, then we'd better be careful. Some believe that ideas do influence behavior in a direct way. But it could be argued that Hitler did not come to power only because

(continued on page 12)

CALDICOTT BANNER EXHIBIT AVAILABLE

Two traveling Caldicott banner exhibits are now available from the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association.

The banners were created by groups of children for a national contest in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Caldicott medal. From 300 entries submitted from 18 states, 50 winners were selected. These 50 banners were exhibited at the 1988 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans.

Each traveling exhibit consists of a set of ten 8-foot by 5-foot banners selected from the winners, a slide presentation and publicity tools. The exhibit is free, although librarians are responsible for insurance and shipping costs to the next site. The Association for Library Service to Children has received partial funding from Bound to Stay Bound, Inc., to launch the traveling exhibit. For more information on hosting a banner exhibit, contact Janice Kellman at the ALSC office, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

YOUR LIBRARY



WHERE THE WILD
THINGS ARE

Intellectual Freedom as an Absolute

(continued from page 11)

his ideas were allowed to be expressed. There were other more important factors.

If one idea is censored does it follow that all ideas will be censored? Right now we assume that is true. Does one case mean that a precedent has been established? We also need to look at the difference between lies and falsehood. It's one thing to defend "THE TRUTH" — another to defend what we believe or know to be lies.

It's my position that librarians do indeed operate out of a an ideological "frame" as do other professions such as journalists and teachers. This is usually determined by their own backgrounds and experience as well as by the kinds of selection tools they use. We have seen that many of these lower-level professionals do come from what could be termed middle-class backgrounds and have a commitment to stability in our society and to "neutrality" as they see it. Most professionals believe that they are neutral conveyors of information. They often do not take recognition of their lowly position in the national business of book selections as well as of the journals they use — which promote the dominant ideologies and the big publishers. It takes an effort to go outside these boundaries of class, habit and experience to include other points of view. Often it means informing ourselves independently of the professional selection tools.

I really do think that librarians are, more than many in our society, fair. The ones I have known try to be. They try to respond to public demands. They will select books with unpopular views. They will allow unpopular groups to use the library. They can waiver but I feel that they succeed more than they fail.

What is needed in my opinion, is a greater commitment to seeking alternative points of view...more activity in this direction. We need to recognize that we are not neutral and go from there. We need to remain committed to the Library Bill of Rights.

Ideas do not influence people as much as we think and it's even less so when it comes to reading ideas. We tend to glorify the significance of reading in people's lives because of the kind of work we do. (I think other media now control thinking more than print.) People who want to censor feel this way too — a book explaining sex will cause teenagers to go have sexual intercourse. Simple as that. By censoring books or movies about sex, we will prevent teenagers from having sex.

Our collections sometimes do not express the diversity of thought in a community and that's because local librarians have not made an effort to seek out different views. If nobody asked to read Marx, there's no reason to have it. Maybe we should wonder if no one asks because they know that the library won't have it.

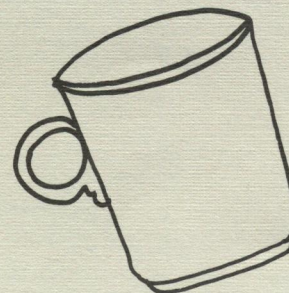
I think that some librarians are afraid to seek alternative information and confuse that function of maintaining balance with social advocacy. When I ordered books on AIDS for gay men or lesbian fiction many thought that was a kind of advocacy. Actually, it's my job to represent all points of view and make them available in a library.

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SHOE THIEF IS STALKING LIBRARY

(Reprinted from the *Wheeling Intelligencer*, 8-24-89)

The Boston Public Library is searching its stacks and reading rooms for a visitor who has caused a stir with his taste in shoes — shoes belonging to other people who have slipped them off while lost in a book.

And he only takes one at a time.

Library spokesman Arthur Dunphy said three shoes have been stolen from under library tables in the past month. All the victims so far have been female, Dunphy said. Each made herself comfortable at a table on the carpeted floors of the library's general building on Copley Square.

Some slipped off their shoes while they sat at a table reading. Another found one shoe missing after she had padded off to the copier machine barefoot. Library security officers said they did not think the crimes were the work of a sure-footed prankster, but rather some kind of shoe-crazed social deviant.

"He's a shoe freak," security supervisor Lt. George Butner said Wednesday. "You have to tell it like it is: He's a sniff freak. He must have a closet full by now." Butner said the thief has taken high heels and flats of different sizes. Library personnel said they don't expect the thief to get away with many more heists.

According to Dunphy, the victims have been able to offer consistent descriptions once they think back to who was sitting across from them. Butner described the suspect as a 23-year-old man with earrings in his nose and one ear.

Dunphy said the library would not warn patrons to keep their shoes — like their wallets and pocketbooks — on their person. "It's not an epidemic," he said.

Librarians elsewhere in the Boston system said shoes at their branches stay put. "Isn't that bizarre?" said Paula Posniak, a librarian at the West End Branch. "No, we've got people that curse, talk to themselves, write all over newspapers, but no shoes, thank God. Please don't send them here."

ALA OFFERS \$10,000 FOR RESEARCH

The 1990 Carroll Preston Baber Grant of \$10,000 will be awarded next June to an American Library Association (ALA) member who presents the winning proposal for innovative research that could lead to an improvement in library service to a particular group of people.

Applications are judged by the Baber jury, chaired by Martha Bowman, university librarian, University of Louisville. The winner of the grant is announced at ALA's Annual Conference. A packet of guidelines and application materials is available from the Office for Research, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Final applications are due by March 1, 1990. Applicants who wish a preliminary review by the jury may send draft proposals to the chair by December 1, 1989. The Baber grant was established three years ago by Eric Baber of Newton, Kansas, in memory of his father who was library director at Kansas State Teachers College (now Emporia State University) for 27 years and an active member of ALA. It is the largest of ALA's annual awards.

White House Conference on Library and Information Services

Fifty-seven states and territories have now indicated they plan to participate in the White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS) and will undertake state or territorial preconference activities.

Commenting on the first report on state and territorial activities, Dan Carter, Chairman of the WHCLIS Advisory Committee, said: "The success of the 1991 White House Conference on Library and Information Science depends in great part on what is done in the individual states and territories. The large number of states planning to participate in conference activities is an indication that states recognize their important role in assuring that the conference achieves its objectives. At this early date several state governors have already designated planning committees and have announced dates for state conferences. We anticipate that the interest demonstrated by the library and information communities and others and the stimulation of federal funds will result in markedly increased state and territorial efforts."

WHCLIS was authorized by Public Law 100-132. Its purpose is "to develop recommendations for the further improvement of the library and information services of the nation and their use by the public." Delegates to the state and territorial programs and at the national conference will represent a broad segment of the population, evenly divided between the library and information profession, active library and information supporters, the general public, and federal, state or local government officials.

Individuals interested in participating in state and/or local White House Conference activities are urged to get in touch with their governor's administrative office or their state librarian.

West Virginia was allotted \$18,000 for pre-conference activities. As additional funds are appropriated by Congress, they will be made available.

University Of The West Indies (St. Augustine) Selects VTLS

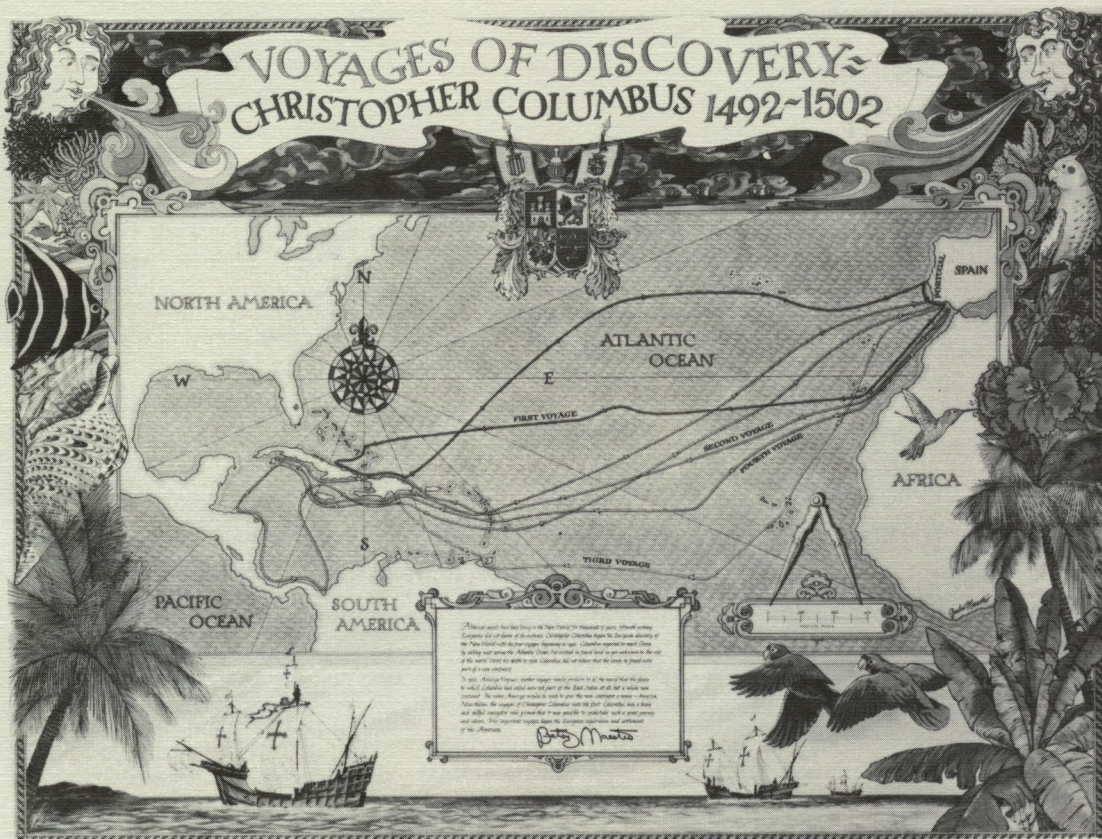
The University of the West Indies' St. Augustine Campus Library (Trinidad and Tobago) and its branch medical library at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, Champs Fleurs, installed a VTLS system this summer. The VTLS system is running on a dedicated Hewlett Packard 3000 XE computer with 24 terminals, half of which are for public access. The St. Augustine campus library and its branch house 273,262 monographs and 13,769 serial titles.

Also selecting the VTLS automation system is the Virginia State University's Johnston Memorial Library (Petersburg, Va.). This library will run its VTLS system on a Hewlett Packard 925LX and use 14 terminals. Virginia State University was founded in 1882 and is America's first fully state-supported, four-year institution for higher education for blacks. The Johnston Memorial Library houses a collection of 235,000 volumes, including 159,000 unique titles and 1,700 serial titles.

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VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY

A Voyages of Discovery Wall Chart has been created by illustrator Giulio Maestro, text by Betsy Maestro, for the Children's Book Council's materials programs in observance of the Quincentennial Discovery of America. It is full color and measures over 24" by 31". It is offered as part of a Discovery of America Display Kit that also includes two 9" X 22" full-color streamers by Michael McCurdy on "Columbus" and Robert Andrew Parkers on "1492-1992" and an educational insert. The display kit is priced at \$25.00.

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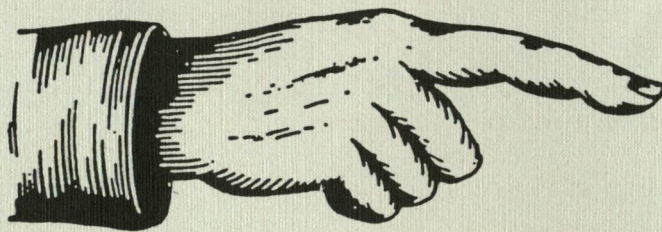
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